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Letter dated 23 October 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 20 October 1998, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 20 and 22 October 1998.

On 20 October, two pairs of F-16, two pairs of F-14 and one pair of RF-4 military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force entered the Nicosia flight information region, violating international air traffic regulations as well as the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and exiting thereafter towards the Ankara flight information region.

On 22 October, 22 Turkish military aircraft (16 F-16, 4 F-4 and 2 RF-4) entered the Nicosia flight information region, violating international air traffic regulations. The two RF-4 violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, flying over the areas of the Cape of Kormakitis, Karpasia, the Cape of Cavo Greco, as well as the area south of the town of Paphos.

As stated in my previous letters, such unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus are in violation of international air traffic rules and, at the same time, they are in contravention of the provisions of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus, which state that such overflights increase tension on the island and undermine efforts towards achieving a final settlement.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest these new provocative acts by Turkey against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, which constitute an offensive disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and all the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus. Furthermore,

these continuing overflights by the Turkish Air Force, as well as the presence of the Turkish military occupation forces on the island, constitute the underlying causes of tension in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Sotos ZACKHEOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative